



**Masonboro Island Reserve
Local Advisory Committee Meeting
October 28, 2014, 4 pm
Atrium Conference Room, UNCW CMS**

Attendance

| <u>LAC Partner Organization Members</u> | <u>Present</u> |
|---|-----------------------|
| NC Audubon, Walker Golder | Yes |
| Friends of the Reserve (FOR) | No |
| New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Sergeant Steve Schmidlin | Yes |
| New Hanover County Planning Department, Chris O'Keefe | Yes |
| NC Coastal Land Trust, Jesica Blake | Yes |
| Division of Marine Fisheries | No |
| Division of Parks and Recreation – CB, Chris Helms | No |
| Town of Wrightsville Beach | No |
| <u>Community Members and Community Organizations Members</u> | |
| Neal Andrew | Yes |
| Richard Cecelski | Yes |
| Masonboro.org – Jack Kilbourne | Yes |
| Haywood Newkirk | Yes |
| William Raney | Yes |
| Pat Rittenmeyer | No |
| Sam Romano | Yes |
| Dr. Anthony Snider | No |
| Surfrider, Cape Fear – Sean Ahlum | No |
| Ted Wilgis | Yes |
| Martin Willard | Yes |
| Dr. Amanda Williard | Yes |
| <u>Others Present</u> | |
| Hope Sutton, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Stewardship Coordinator/Southern Sites Manager | |
| Rebecca Ellin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Reserve Manager | |
| Brandon Puckett, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Research Coordinator | |
| Paula Gillikin, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Central Sites Manager | |
| Heather Wells, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Research Biologist | |
| Byron Toothman, DCM/NCCR & NCNERR Research Biologist | |
| Chris Ellis, NOAA Office for Coastal Management, Facilitator | |
| Michele Walker, DENR/DCM Public Information Officer | |

Focus Group Session for NCNERR Management Plan Update

Chris Ellis facilitated a focus group session with Local Advisory Committee members as part of the NCNERR 2016-2021 management plan update process. A series of questions was provided to LAC members prior to the meeting and served as the basis for the focus group discussion, focusing on three primary areas: program management, coastal community involvement, and partnership opportunities. Specific topics discussed included: current environmental topics critical to the NCNERR; NCNERR program offerings and activities; visitor management concerns and opportunities; program priorities for the next five years; community awareness and connection to the Reserve; engagement of local communities; and partnership opportunities. The discussion allowed LAC members to provide input on the Reserve's activities and priorities. Input gathered from each of the LACs for the four sites within the NCNERR will be incorporated into strategic planning activities as the updated management plan is drafted.

Review of Reserve-wide and Site Update Report

A written report containing updates on the Reserve program and site activities was provided to members prior to the meeting. No members present had questions or comments.

Additional Reserve-wide item

The Site Manager reported that a request has been submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources to extend terms of Local Advisory Committee Members serving in community member seats that are due to expire in December 2014. The request for extension has been submitted to ensure continuity throughout the NCNERR Management Plan Update process. Members will be notified as soon as this request is processed. If granted, current members with terms due to expire on December 31, 2014, would serve through December 31, 2015. An application and appointment process would be undertaken during the fall of 2015.

Action item follow-up from previous meeting

- The Site Manager summarized the findings of the commercial user engagement process site managers undertook earlier in the year. Overall, feedback across the sites was positive. Site managers learned that those commercial operators interested in engaging in dialogue and attending information sessions are also interested in information exchange. Annual data submission requests will begin this fall, to be followed by continuation of annual information sessions and meetings during the winter.
- Committee members requested that Layton Bledsole, New Hanover County Shore Protection Coordinator, be invited to present to the LAC regarding sand and shoreline management in New Hanover County. The Site Manager spoke with Mr. Bledsole and he indicated his willingness to speak at a meeting during 2015. Due to the management plan update activities anticipated for the spring meeting, he will likely attend the June meeting.

New Business

- None

Roundtable Discussion

- No additional member comments.

Public Comments

- None

Action Items

- The Site Manager will contact committee members in January 2015 to schedule the next meeting, likely to occur in March, during which the draft strategic management plan will be discussed. Other meetings for 2015 will be scheduled based on progress of the management plan update process, but are likely to occur in summer and fall.